

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to enable user-authoring of content within an interactive television environment, said method comprising:

~~receiving communicating~~ television content from a first source system at ~~[[to]]~~ a headend system, the television content to be presented to a user of a receiver system;

~~receiving communicating~~ authoring data along with an authoring application from a second source system at the headend system, said authoring data comprising media information related to ~~associated with~~ the television content, ~~from a second source system to the headend system~~;

~~proximate~~ multiplexing together said television content, said authoring data, and said authoring application proximate in time at said headend system into a multiplexed signal ; and

communicating said ~~proximate multiplexed signal television content, authoring data, and authoring application~~ from said headend system to the receiver system such that said receiver system receives said television content, authoring data, and authoring application proximate in time, the authoring application being executable by the receiver system to enable the user to create new authored content, said new authored content including the authoring data associated with the television content as selected by said user.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, said method further comprising:

~~receiving, at the headend system, the authoring data from a content source, and~~ associating the authoring data with the television content.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the authoring data is contextual to the television content.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the authoring application comprises a messaging application executable by the receiver system to enable the user to include the new authored content within a message, and to enable the user to communicate the message.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the television content and the authoring data are associated using content identification information within the authoring data identifiers.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the proximate multiplexed television content, the authoring data, and the authoring application comprises a broadcast.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the source system includes a multiplexer to multiplex the television content, the authoring data, and the authoring application.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said authoring data comprises text, images, and audio associated with said television content.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, including executing the authoring application to present a user interface for display on the receiver system, the user interface to receive the user identification of the portion of the authoring data to be included within the new authored content.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the user interface presents the authoring data in association with the television content at the receiver system for selection by said user.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~[[o]]~~as set forth in ~~[[f]]~~claim 1, ~~including, at the receiver system,~~ said method further comprising:

executing the authoring application on the receiver system to transmit the authored content as part of a message to a recipient.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 11, ~~including~~ said method further comprising:

executing the authoring application to prompt the user to provide identification information for the recipient.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receiver system is an interactive television system, and the authoring application is an interactive television application.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, ~~including, at the receiver system,~~ said method further comprising:

executing the authoring application on the receiver system to present a virtual keyboard for display on the receiver system, the virtual keyboard to facilitate alphanumeric input by said user.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, ~~including, at the receiver system,~~ said method further comprising:

executing the authoring application on the receiver system to receive alphanumeric input from said user, and to identify the alphanumeric input for inclusion along with authoring data within the authored content.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, ~~including, at the receiver system,~~ said method further comprising:

executing the authoring application on the receiver system to receive a recipient identifier to identify a recipient of a message that includes the authored content.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 16, wherein the message comprises a SMS message[[,]] and the recipient identifier comprises a telephone number.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 16, wherein the message comprises an e-mail message[[,]] and the recipient identifier comprises an e-mail address.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 16, wherein the message comprises an instant message[[,]] and the recipient identifier comprises an instant message handle.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 16, including said method further comprising:

executing the authoring application at the receiver system to communicate the message via a return path to the source system.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein the return path comprises [[is]] a bi-directional communication channel.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the authoring data includes at least one of a group of information types including numeric, alphanumeric, picture, logo, icon, video, and audio data.

23. (Currently Amended) A multi-media system with user authoring features, said system comprising:

a first source system to distribute television content;

a second source system to generate authoring data and an authoring application, said authoring data comprising media information related to ~~associated with~~ said television content;

a multiplexer to proximate multiplex together said television content, said authoring data, and said authoring application;

a broadcast system to broadcast said proximate multiplexed television content, authoring data, and authoring application to a plurality of receiver systems; and

a receiver system to receive the proximate multiplexed television content, authoring data, and authoring application from the broadcast system proximate in time, said authoring application allowing a user to create new authored content with the authoring data.

24. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 23, wherein the television content is associated to the authoring data with content identification information within the authoring data identifiers.

25. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 23, wherein the first source system is the same as the second source system.

26. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 23, wherein the authoring application comprises a messaging application.

27. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 23, wherein the television content is associated to the authoring data using timecodes.

28. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 23, wherein the receiver system is to communicate the new authored content to a messaging system for inclusion within the message.

29. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 28, wherein the message is an SMS message[[,]] and the recipient identifier is a telephone number.

30. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 28, wherein the message is an e-mail message[[,]] and the recipient identifier is an e-mail address.

31. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 28, wherein the message is an instant message[[,]] and the recipient identifier is an instant message handle.

32. – 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium, said machine-readable medium storing a set of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause said [[a]] machine to perform a method comprising:

receiving television content from a first source system in a headend system, the television content to be presented to a user of a receiver system;

receiving authoring data along with an authoring application, from a second source system at the headend system, said authoring data comprising media information related to ~~associated with~~ the television content, ~~from a second source system to the headend system~~;

proximate multiplexing together said television content, said authoring data, and said authoring application at said headend system; and

communicating said proximate multiplexed television content, authoring data, and authoring application from said headend system to the receiver system such that said receiver system receives said television content, authoring data, and authoring application proximate in time, the authoring application being executable by the receiver system to enable the user to create new authored content, said new authored content including the authoring data associated with the television content as selected by said user.

42. (Cancelled)